



**FOLEY  
HOAG LLP**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Kalun Lee  
Boston Office  
617.832.3065  
[klee@foleyhoag.com](mailto:klee@foleyhoag.com)

March 28, 2006

**By Electronic Filing**

Michelle Rynne  
Court Clerk to the Honorable Douglas P. Woodlock  
United States District Court  
District of Massachusetts  
John Joseph Moakley U.S. Courthouse  
One Courthouse Way  
Boston, MA 02210

Re: *Kathleen Martin v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al.*  
C.A. No. 05-CV-11716-DPW

Dear Ms. Rynne:

The *Martin* case has been transferred by order of the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation to the Eastern District of Louisiana. The accompanying copy of the transfer order notes that the cases listed on the order, including the *Martin* matter, were transferred as of February 15, 2006.

In light of the transfer of this action, jurisdiction of this case is now before the Honorable Eldon E. Fallon in the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kalun Lee  
Kalun Lee

KL

cc: Andrew J. Tine, Esq.  
John M. Dellea, Esq.  
Maria L. Mazur, Esq.

attachment

**A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY**

FEB 14 2006

ATTEST  
FOR THE JUDICIAL PANEL ON  
MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION

BEFORE THE JUDICIAL PANEL ON MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION

FILED JUDICIAL PANEL ON  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LA

FEB 14 2006

2006 FEB 15 PM 3:14

FILED  
CLERK'S OFFICELORETTA G. WHYTE  
CLERK**DOCKET NO. 1657**LORETTA G. WHYTE  
CLERK**IN RE VIOXX MARKETING, SALES PRACTICES AND PRODUCTS  
LIABILITY LITIGATION****SECT.L MAG 3****BEFORE WM. TERRELL HODGES, CHAIRMAN, JOHN F. KEENAN, D.  
LOWELL JENSEN, J. FREDERICK MOTZ,\* ROBERT L. MILLER, JR.,  
KATHRYN H. VRATIL AND DAVID R. HANSEN, JUDGES OF THE PANEL****TRANSFER ORDER**

Presently before the Panel are motions, pursuant to Rule 7.4, R.P.J.P.M.L., 199 F.R.D. 425, 435-36 (2001), by plaintiffs in 80 actions and by health care defendants in the District of Massachusetts action and the Western District of Texas action to vacate the Panel's orders conditionally transferring the actions listed on Schedule A to the Eastern District of Louisiana for inclusion in the Section 1407 proceedings occurring there in this docket. Merck & Co., Inc., favors inclusion of these actions in MDL-1657 proceedings.

On the basis of the papers filed and hearing session held, the Panel finds that these actions involve common questions of fact with actions in this litigation previously transferred to the Eastern District of Louisiana. Transfer of the actions to that district for inclusion in the coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings occurring there will serve the convenience of the parties and witnesses and promote the just and efficient conduct of this litigation. Any pending motions to remand to state court can be presented to and decided by the transferee judge. *See, e.g., In re Ivy*, 901 F.2d 7 (2d Cir. 1990); *In re Prudential Insurance Company of America Sales Practices Litigation*, 170 F.Supp.2d 1346, 1347-48 (J.P.M.L. 2001). The Panel further finds that transfer of these actions is appropriate for the reasons expressed in the original order directing centralization in this docket. In that order, the Panel held that the Eastern District of Louisiana was a proper Section 1407 forum for actions involving claims of liability for allegedly adverse effects arising from the ingestion of Vioxx. *See In re Vioxx Products Liability Litigation*, 360 F.Supp.2d 1352 (J.P.M.L. 2005).

Some opposing plaintiffs and the health care defendants argue that the presence of individual and/or local questions of fact as well as differing legal theories should militate against inclusion of these actions in MDL-1657 proceedings. We are unpersuaded by these arguments. Inclusion of these actions in Section 1407 proceedings has the salutary effect of placing all the related actions before a single judge who can formulate a pretrial program that: 1) prevents repetition of previously considered matters;

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\* Judge Motz took no part in the decision of this matter.

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2) allows pretrial proceedings with respect to any non-common issues to proceed concurrently with pretrial proceedings on common issues, *In re Multi-Piece Rim Products Liability Litigation*, 464 F.Supp. 969, 974 (J.P.M.L. 1979); and 3) ensures that pretrial proceedings will be conducted in a manner leading to the just and expeditious resolution of all actions to the overall benefit of the parties. See *In re StarLink Corn Products Liability Litigation*, 152 F.Supp.2d 1378 (J.P.M.L. 2001). It may be, on further refinement of the issues and close scrutiny by the transferee judge, that some claims or actions can be remanded to their transferor districts for trial in advance of the other actions in the transferee district. Should the transferee judge deem remand of any claims or actions appropriate, procedures are available whereby this may be accomplished with a minimum of delay. See Rule 7.6, R.P.J.P.M.L., 199 F.R.D. at 436-38.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1407, these actions are transferred to the Eastern District of Louisiana and, with the consent of that court, assigned to the Honorable Eldon E. Fallon for inclusion in the coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings occurring there in this docket.

FOR THE PANEL:

Wm. Terrell Hodges

Wm. Terrell Hodges  
Chairman

**SCHEDULE A****MDL-1657 -- In re Vioxx Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation****Middle District of Alabama**EDLA  
SEC. L/3*Theatus Rawdon Beaty v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al.*, C.A. No. 2:05-880

06-722

**Southern District of Illinois***Elvin Elswick v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al.*, C.A. No. 3:05-645

06-723

*Stanely McNulty v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al.*, C.A. No. 3:05-661

06-724

*Gary Grizzell v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al.*, C.A. No. 4:05-4170

06-725

**Eastern District of Kentucky***Ronald E. Smith, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc.*, C.A. No. 3:05-68

06-726

*James Parsons, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc.*, C.A. No. 5:05-412

06-727

*Gene Patterson, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc.*, C.A. No. 5:05-413

06-728

*Maudie F. Jones, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc.*, C.A. No. 5:05-425

06-729

*Gerlene Stacy v. Merck & Co., Inc.*, C.A. No. 6:05-525

06-730

*Bonnie Engle v. Merck & Co., Inc.*, C.A. No. 6:05-565

06-731

*James T. Bevins, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc.*, C.A. No. 7:05-317

06-732

*James Howell, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc.*, C.A. No. 7:05-330

06-733

**Western District of Kentucky***Elvis Meadors v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al.*, C.A. No. 1:05-136

06-734

*Harold Reiser v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al.*, C.A. No. 1:05-156

06-735

*James W. Thompson, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc.*, C.A. No. 3:05-549

06-736

*Jerry W. Kinslow, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc.*, C.A. No. 3:05-550

06-737

*Carl D. Mahan, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc.*, C.A. No. 3:05-565

06-738

*Samuel Bain, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc.*, C.A. No. 3:05-566

06-739

*Wenceslaus Klimesh, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc.*, C.A. No. 3:05-568

06-740

*Glen Kelly v. Merck & Co., Inc.*, C.A. No. 3:05-569

06-741

*Barry M. Kinslow v. Merck & Co., Inc.*, C.A. No. 3:05-570

06-742

*Barbara A. Reeves, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al.*, C.A. No. 3:05-571

06-743

*Betty Wooldridge, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc.*, C.A. No. 3:05-572

06-744

*Bernice Eversole, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc.*, C.A. No. 3:05-573

06-745

*Earl G. Crank, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc.*, C.A. No. 3:05-581

06-746

*Phillip Metcalf, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al.*, C.A. No. 3:05-582

06-747

*Allen Dowell, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc.*, C.A. No. 3:05-585

06-748

*Lois Zoll v. Merck & Co., Inc.*, C.A. No. 3:05-586

06-749

*Helen Dennison v. Merck & Co., Inc.*, C.A. No. 3:05-587

06-750

*Lana Yaggie, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc.*, C.A. No. 3:05-588

06-751

*Kim Young, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc.*, C.A. No. 3:05-589

06-752

*William E. Garrett, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc.*, C.A. No. 3:05-590

06-753

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Western District of Kentucky (continued)

EDLA  
SEC. L/3

<i>William M. Adams, Jr., et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc.</i> , C.A. No. 3:05-591	06-754
<i>Linda Howard, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc.</i> , C.A. No. 3:05-592	06-755
<i>Richard Wigginton, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc.</i> , C.A. No. 3:05-593	06-756
<i>Sharon McDonald v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc., et al.</i> , C.A. No. 3:05-595	06-757
<i>Dennie Miller, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc.</i> , C.A. No. 3:05-600	06-758
<i>David G. Thomas v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc.</i> , C.A. No. 3:05-601	06-759
<i>George R. Hubbard, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc.</i> , C.A. No. 3:05-602	06-760
<i>Joseph E. Newton, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc.</i> , C.A. No. 3:05-603	06-761
<i>Elmer Smith, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc.</i> , C.A. No. 3:05-605	06-762
<i>Violet Bailey, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc.</i> , C.A. No. 3:05-606	06-763
<i>Joyce Skillman v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc.</i> , C.A. No. 3:05-607	06-764
<i>Charles Ball, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc.</i> , C.A. No. 3:05-608	06-765
<i>Lucky Daniels, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc.</i> , C.A. No. 3:05-609	06-766
<i>Lovell S. Cottrell, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc.</i> , C.A. No. 3:05-610	06-767
<i>Charles Orange, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc.</i> , C.A. No. 3:05-615	06-768
<i>Earl J. Estep, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc.</i> , C.A. No. 3:05-616	06-769
<i>Michael T. Mooney, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc.</i> , C.A. No. 3:05-617	06-770
<i>Juanita King v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc.</i> , C.A. No. 3:05-618	06-771
<i>Marjorie Staten, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc.</i> , C.A. No. 3:05-619	06-772
<i>Bernard Griffin, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc.</i> , C.A. No. 3:05-620	06-773
<i>Anthony Long, etc. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc.</i> , C.A. No. 3:05-621	06-774
<i>Cleo D. Gilbert, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc.</i> , C.A. No. 3:05-622	06-775
<i>Vanessa Wisenbaler v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc.</i> , C.A. No. 3:05-626	06-776
<i>Charles Nantz, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc.</i> , C.A. No. 3:05-627	06-777
<i>Annie Hendrix v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc.</i> , C.A. No. 3:05-628	06-778
<i>Carolyn A. Ward v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc.</i> , C.A. No. 3:05-629	06-779
<i>William E. Kaufman, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc.</i> , C.A. No. 3:05-630	06-780
<i>Donna C. Russel, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc.</i> , C.A. No. 3:05-631	06-781
<i>Delbert Rakes, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc.</i> , C.A. No. 3:05-632	06-782
<i>Timmy Glass, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc., et al.</i> , C.A. No. 3:05-646	06-783

District of Massachusetts

<i>Kathleen Martin v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc., et al.</i> , C.A. No. 1:05-11716	06-784
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Eastern District of Missouri

<i>Michael Elder, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc., et al.</i> , C.A. No. 4:05-1268	06-785
<i>Nina Cook, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc., et al.</i> , C.A. No. 4:05-1272	06-786
<i>George Likins, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc., et al.</i> , C.A. No. 4:05-1273	06-787
<i>Tyrone Dawson, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc., et al.</i> , C.A. No. 4:05-1291	06-788
<i>Evelyn Light, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc., et al.</i> , C.A. No. 4:05-1463	06-789
<i>Fulton Lacy, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc., et al.</i> , C.A. No. 4:05-1465	06-790

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Eastern District of Missouri (continued)

EDLA  
SEC. L/3

<i>Roberta Sterling, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc., et al.</i> , C.A. No. 4:05-1466	06-791
<i>Betty Jean Gant et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc., et al.</i> , C.A. No. 4:05-1490	06-792
<i>Jane Latham, et al. v. Merrck &amp; Co., Inc., et al.</i> , C.A. No. 4:05-1491	06-793
<i>Jefferson Euell, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc., et al.</i> , C.A. No. 4:05-1497	06-794
<i>Barbara Gustin, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc., et al.</i> , C.A. No. 4:05-1514	06-795
<i>Martin Zide, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc., et al.</i> , C.A. No. 4:05-1520	06-796
<i>Ginger Hugo, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc., et al.</i> , C.A. No. 4:05-1557	06-797

Western District of Missouri

<i>Jimmie Collins v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc., et al.</i> , C.A. No. 3:05-5142	06-798
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Southern District of New York

<i>Douglas A. Spalter, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc., et al.</i> , C.A. No. 1:05-7301	06-799
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Western District of New York

<i>Brian North v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc., et al.</i> , C.A. No. 6:05-6475	06-800
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Eastern District of Tennessee

<i>James E. Queen, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc.</i> , C.A. No. 1:05-283	06-801
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Western District of Texas

<i>Sulema L. Banda, et al. v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc., et al.</i> , C.A. No. 5:05-950	06-802
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**INVOLVED COUNSEL LIST  
DOCKET NO. 1657**

**IN RE VIOXX MARKETING, SALES PRACTICES AND PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION**

T. Scott Allen  
Cruse Scott Henderson & Allen, LLP  
2777 Allen Parkway, 7th Floor  
Houston, TX 77019-2133

David A. Dick  
Thompson Coburn, LLP  
One US Bank Plaza, Suite 2600  
St Louis, MO 63101

Norman C. Kleinberg  
Hughes Hubbard & Reed, LLP  
One Battery Park Plaza  
12th Floor  
New York, NY 10004-1482

Dan H. Ball  
Bryan Cave, L.L.P.  
One Metropolitan Square  
211 N. Broadway, Suite 3600  
St. Louis, MO 63102-2750

Aaron K. Dickey  
Goldenberg, Miller, Heller  
& Antognoli, P.C.  
2227 South State Route 157  
P.O. Box 959  
Edwardsville, IL 62025-0959

Andrea B. Lamere  
Schaeffer & Lamere, PC  
5512 Godfrey Road, Suite B  
Godfrey, IL 62035

Andy D. Birchfield, Jr.  
Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis  
& Miles, PC  
P.O. Box 4160  
Montgomery, AL 36103-4160

James J. Dillon  
Foley Hoag, LLP  
155 Seaport Boulevard  
Seaport World Trade Center West  
Boston, MA 02210-2600

Deborah R. Lewis  
Law Offices of Deborah R. Lewis, PLLC  
P.O. Drawer 1179  
Hazard, KY 41702

Gregory J. Bubalo  
Bubalo & Hiestand, PLC  
401 S. Fourth Street, Suite 800  
Brown & Williamson Tower  
Louisville, KY 40202

James M. Doran, Jr.  
Waller, Lansden, Dortch & Davis  
511 Union Street, Suite 2700  
Nashville, TN 37219

Gary S. Logsdon  
Logsdon & Hawkins, P.S.C.  
1647 Scottsville Road  
P.O. Box 3400  
Bowling Green, KY 42102-3400

Evan D. Buxner  
Walther Glenn Law Associates  
1034 South Brentwood Blvd.  
Suite 1300  
St. Louis, MO 63117

John J. Driscoll  
Brown & Crouppen, PC  
720 Olive Street, Suite 1800  
St. Louis, MO 63101-2302

Jeffrey J. Lowe  
Jeffrey J. Lowe, PC  
8235 Forsyth Boulevard, Suite 1100  
St. Louis, MO 63105

John J. Carey  
Carey & Danis, LLC  
8235 Forsyth Boulevard, Suite 1100  
St. Louis, MO 63105

Robert T. Ebert, Jr.  
Bryan Cave, L.L.P.  
One Metropolitan Square  
211 N. Broadway, Suite 3600  
St. Louis, MO 63102

Edward F. Mahoney  
Martin, Magnuson, McCarthy & Kenney  
101 Merrimac Street  
Boston, MA 02114-4716

John A. Combs  
Frost, Brown & Todd, L.L.C.  
250 West Main Street, Suite 2700  
Lexington, KY 40507-1742

Francis J. Flynn  
Jeffrey J. Lowe, P.C.  
8235 Forsyth Blvd., Suite 1100  
St. Louis, MO 63105

Kurt W. Maier  
English, Lucas, Priest & Owsley, LLP  
1101 College Street  
P.O. Box 770  
Bowling Green, KY 42102-0770

Thomas A. Countryman  
Fulbright & Jaworski, L.L.P.  
300 Convent Street, Suite 2200  
San Antonio, TX 78205-3792

James P. Frickleton  
Bartimus, Frickleton, Robertson  
& Obetz, P.C.  
11150 Overbrook Drive, Suite 200  
Leawood, KS 66211

Chad Matthews  
Sanes & Matthews  
3027 Marina Bay Drive, Suite 320  
League City, TX 77573

Lawrence T. D'Aloise, Jr.  
Clark, Gagliardi & Miller, P.C.  
99 Court Street  
White Plains, NY 10601-4265

Vilia B. Hayes  
Hughes, Hubbard & Reed, LLP  
One Battery Park Plaza  
New York, NY 10004

Winston E. Miller  
Frost, Brown & Todd, L.L.C.  
400 West Market Street, 32nd Floor  
Louisville, KY 40202-3363

John M. Dellea  
Ficksman & Conley , LLP  
98 North Washington Street, Suite 500  
Boston, MA 02114

Russ M. Herman  
Herman, Herman, Katz & Cotlar, L.L.P.  
820 O'Keefe Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70113

Ronald E. Mitchell  
Blanchard, Robertson, Mitchell & Carter,  
P.C.  
320 W. Fourth Street  
Joplin, MO 64802

## INVOLVED COUNSEL LIST- MDL-1657

PAGE 2 of 2

Ann B. Oldfather  
Oldfather & Morris  
1330 South Third Street  
Louisville, KY 40208

Tyler S. Thompson  
Dolt, Thompson, Shepherd & Kinney  
455 S. 4th Street  
310 Starks Building  
Louisville, KY 40202

Susan J. Pope  
Frost, Brown & Todd, L.L.C.  
250 West Main Street, Suite 2700  
Lexington, KY 40507-1749

Andrew K. Tine  
Haese, LLC  
30 Federal Street, Third Floor  
Boston, MA 02110

John P. Rahoy  
Brown & James, P.C.  
1010 Market Street, 20th Floor  
St. Louis, MO 63101

David A. Trevey  
Lynn, Fulkerson, Nichols & Kinkel, PLLC  
267 W. Short Street  
Lexington, KY 40507

D. Brian Rattliff  
Bubalo & Hiestand, PLC  
401 South Fourth Street, Suite 800  
Louisville, KY 40202

George F. Verschelden  
Stinson Morrison Hecker, LLP  
1201 Walnut Street, Suite 2800  
Kansas City, MO 64106-6251

Roberto Serna  
Law Office of Roberto Serna  
P.O. Box 603  
Crystal City, TX 78839

Theresa M. Walsh  
Brown & Chiari, LLP  
5775 Broadway  
Lancaster, NY 14086

Michael D. Shalhoub  
Heidell, Pittoni, Murphy & Bach, LLP  
99 Park Ave.  
New York, NY 10016

Anna M. Warnock  
Frost, Brown & Todd, L.L.C.  
250 West Main Street  
2700 Lexington Financial Center  
Lexington, KY 40507-1749

Donald G. Smith  
Donald G. Smith Law Offices, PLLC  
470 Main Street, Suite 3  
P.O. Box 600  
Hazard, KY 41702

Flossie Weill  
Weill, Durand & Long, PLLC  
Two Union Square  
700 Tallan Building  
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2207

Randy J. Soriano  
Bryan Cave, L.L.P.  
One Metropolitan Square  
211 N. Broadway, Suite 3600  
St. Louis, MO 63102-2750

Steven J. Weinberg  
Weinbeg & Weinberg  
3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 3100  
Houston, TX 77027

Stephen G. Strauss  
Bryan Cave, L.L.P.  
One Metropolitan Square  
211 N. Broadway, Suite 3600  
St. Louis, MO 63102-2750

Benjamin C. Wilson  
Rushton, Stakely, Johnston & Garrett, PA  
184 Commerce Street  
P.O. Box 270  
Montgomery, AL 36101-0270

Bryant M. Struble  
Thompson & Coburn, LLP  
One US Bank Plaza, Suite 2600  
St. Louis, MO 63101

Phillip A. Wittmann  
Stone, Pigman, Walther & Wittmann, LLC  
546 Carondelet Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130-3588

Stephen M. Strum  
Sandberg, Phoenix & Von Gontard  
One City Centre, 15th Floor  
St. Louis, MO 63101-1880

Christopher A. Wright  
Hershewe Law Firm  
431 Virginia Avenue  
Joplin, MO 64801

**INVOLVED JUDGES LIST  
DOCKET NO. 1657**

**IN RE VIOXX MARKETING, SALES PRACTICES AND PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION**

Hon. Henry E. Autrey  
U.S. District Judge  
10N Thomas F. Eagleton  
U.S. Courthouse  
111 South Tenth Street  
St. Louis, MO 63102

Hon. Samuel F. Biery  
U.S. District Judge  
John H. Wood, Jr., U.S. Courthouse  
655 East Durango Boulevard  
San Antonio, TX 78206-1198

Hon. Curtis Lynn Collier  
Chief Judge, U.S. District Court  
U.S. District Court  
Post Office Box 831  
Chattanooga, TN 37401-0931

Hon. George B. Daniels  
U.S. District Judge  
410 Thurgood Marshall  
U.S. Courthouse  
40 Centre Street  
New York, NY 10007

Hon. J. Phil Gilbert  
U.S. District Judge  
U.S. Courthouse  
301 West Main Street  
Benton, IL 62812-1362

Hon. Jean C. Hamilton  
U.S. District Judge  
16N Thomas F. Eagleton  
U.S. Courthouse  
111 South Tenth St., 16th Floor  
St. Louis, MO 63102-1116

Hon. Joseph M. Hood  
Chief Judge, U.S. District Court  
Federal Building  
101 Barr Street  
Lexington, KY 40588

Hon. David G. Larimer  
U.S. District Judge  
250 Kenneth B. Keating Fed. Bldg.  
100 State Street  
Rochester, NY 14614-1324

Hon. Stephen N. Limbaugh  
Senior U.S. District Judge  
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse  
111 South Tenth St., 3rd Floor  
St. Louis, MO 63102-9958

Hon. Catherine D. Perry  
U.S. District Judge  
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse  
111 South Tenth Street, 14th Floor  
St. Louis, MO 63102-9958

Hon. Michael J. Reagan  
U.S. District Judge  
200 Melvin Price Fed. Bldg.  
& U.S. Courthouse  
750 Missouri Avenue  
E. St. Louis, IL 62201

Hon. Thomas B. Russell  
U.S. District Judge  
307 Federal Building  
501 Broadway Street  
Paducah, KY 42001

Hon. Charles A. Shaw  
U.S. District Judge  
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse  
111 South Tenth Street, 12th Floor  
St. Louis, MO 63102-9958

Hon. Charles R. Simpson, III  
Chief Judge, U.S. District Court  
247 Gene Snyder U.S. Courthouse  
601 West Broadway  
Louisville, KY 40202

Hon. Rodney W. Sippel  
U.S. District Judge  
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse  
111 South Tenth Street, 10th Floor  
St. Louis, MO 63102-1116

Hon. Myron H. Thompson  
U.S. District Judge  
P.O. Box 235  
Montgomery, AL 36101-0235

Hon. E. Richard Webber  
U.S. District Judge  
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse  
111 South Tenth St., 12th Floor  
St. Louis, MO 63102-1116

Hon. Dean Whipple  
Chief Judge, U.S. District Court  
8652 Charles Evans Whittaker  
U.S. Courthouse  
400 East Ninth Street  
Kansas City, MO 64106

Hon. Douglas P. Woodlock  
U.S. District Judge  
4110 John Joseph Moakley  
U.S. Courthouse  
One Courthouse Way  
Boston, MA 02210-3002

**INVOLVED CLERKS LIST****DOCKET NO. 1657****IN RE VIOXX MARKETING, SALES PRACTICES AND PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION**

Debra P. Hackett, Clerk  
 U.S. District Court  
 P.O. Box 711  
 Montgomery, AL 36101-0711

Norbert G. Jaworski, Clerk  
 U.S. District Court  
 P.O. Box 249  
 E. St. Louis, IL 62202-0249

J. Michael McMahon, Clerk  
 Daniel Patrick Moynihan U.S. Courthouse  
 500 Pearl Street  
 New York, NY 10007-1312

Patricia L. Brune, Clerk  
 2710 Charles Evans Whittaker  
 U.S. Courthouse  
 400 E. Ninth Street  
 Kansas City, MO 64106

James Woodward, Clerk  
 3300 Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse  
 111 South Tenth Street  
 St. Louis, MO 63102

Patricia L. McNutt, Clerk  
 U.S. District Court  
 P.O. Box 591  
 Chattanooga, TN 37401-0591

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 120 Federal Building  
 241 East Main Street  
 Bowling Green, KY 42101

Rodney C. Early, Clerk  
 2120 Kenneth B. Keating Federal Building  
 100 State Street  
 Rochester, NY 14614-1368

Jeffrey A. Apperson, Clerk  
 106 Gene Snyder U.S. Courthouse  
 601 West Broadway  
 Louisville, KY 40202

Sarah Thornton, Clerk  
 Clerk's Office - Attn: Sherry Jones  
 U.S. Courthouse  
 595 Main Street  
 Worcester, MA 01608

Leslie G. Whitmer, Clerk  
 313 John C. Watts Federal Building  
 330 West Broadway  
 Frankfort, KY 40601

William G. Putnicki, Clerk  
 John H. Wood, Jr. U.S. Courthouse  
 655 East Durango Boulevard  
 San Antonio, TX 78206-1198

Leslie G. Whitmer, Clerk  
 P.O. Drawer 3074  
 Lexington, KY 40588-3074

Leslie G. Whitmer, Clerk  
 P.O. Box 5121  
 London, KY 40745

Leslie G. Whitmer, Clerk  
 203 Federal Building  
 110 Main Street  
 Pikeville, KY 41501

Norbert G. Jaworski, Clerk  
 U.S. Courthouse  
 301 West Main Street  
 Benton, IL 62812-1362

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
JUDICIAL PANEL ON MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION**

**CHAIRMAN:**  
Judge Wm. Terrell Hodges  
United States District Court  
Middle District of Florida

**MEMBERS:**  
Judge John F. Keenan  
United States District Court  
Southern District of New York  
  
Judge D. Lowell Jensen  
United States District Court  
Northern District of California  
  
Judge J. Frederick Motz  
United States District Court  
District of Maryland

Judge Robert L. Miller, Jr.  
United States District Court  
Northern District of Indiana  
  
Judge Kathryn H. Vratil  
United States District Court  
District of Kansas  
  
Judge David R. Hansen  
United States Court of Appeals  
Eighth Circuit

**DIRECT REPLY TO:**

Michael J. Beck  
Clerk of the Panel  
One Columbus Circle, NE  
Thurgood Marshall Federal  
Judiciary Building  
Room G-255, North Lobby  
Washington, D.C. 20002  
  
Telephone: [202] 502-2800  
Fax: [202] 502-2888

<http://www.jpml.uscourts.gov>

February 14, 2006

Loretta G. Whyte, Clerk  
C-151 U.S. Courthouse  
500 Poydras Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130-3367

Re: MDL-1657 -- In re Vioxx Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation

(See Attached Schedule A of Order)

Dear Ms. Whyte:

I am enclosing a certified copy and one additional copy of a transfer order filed today by the Panel in the above-captioned matter. The order is directed to you for filing.

The Panel's governing statute, 28 U.S.C. §1407, requires that the transferee clerk "...transmit a certified copy of the Panel's order to transfer to the clerk of the district court from which the action is being transferred."

**The Panel has ordered that its Rule 1.6(a), pertaining to transfer of files, be suspended for purposes of this litigation. Accordingly, the transferee district clerk shall request, and the transferor district clerk shall forward, only those files deemed necessary by the transferee district court.**

A list of involved counsel is attached.

Very truly,

Michael J. Beck  
Clerk of the Panel

By

Deputy Clerk

Enclosures/Attachment

cc: Transferee Judge: Judge Eldon E. Fallon  
Transferor Judges: (See Attached List of Judges)  
Transferor Clerks: (See Attached List of Clerks)

JPML Form 29A